

# HUGHIE LEE-SMITH CHRONOLOGY

*Compiled by Aiden Faust*

- 1915** 20 September: Hughie Lee Smith is born in Eustis, FL, to Luther Smith and Alice Carroll (Williams) Smith. Alice and child soon return to her parents' home at 147 Glen Street in Atlanta, GA.
- 1919** Alice moves to Cleveland, OH, to pursue a career in music. Hughie stays in the care of his recently widowed grandmother, "Queenie" Victoria Williams.
- Early 1920s** Nicknamed "Little Man" by relatives for his precocious nature, Lee Smith is allowed few playmates; he begins to focus on art. Early subjects include the trains of the Southern Railroad, whose tracks are visible from the Williams backyard. He also copies Old Masters reproductions and Gustave Doré's illustrations of Bible stories.
- Between the ages of six and ten, Hughie makes annual visits to his mother's home in Ohio.
- 1925** Now securely established in Cleveland, Alice brings Queenie and Hughie to live with her. Alice—a gifted singer—recognizes her son's artistic talent and enrolls him in Saturday morning classes at the Cleveland Museum of Art.
- 1927** Lee Smith advances to Saturday classes at the Cleveland School of Art. He attends Fairmount Junior High and begins running track.
- 1929** Enrolled at East Technical High School, Lee Smith runs the 220-yard low hurdles on the track team. Teammates include Jesse Owens and Dave Albritton.
- 1931** At the close of sophomore year, Lee Smith declares horticulture as his area of academic specialization. But over the summer, he begins drawing seriously again; at the start of his third year at East Tech, he changes his specialization to fine arts.
- 1931–1933** Lee Smith becomes president of the Kennedean Art Club, sings in the glee club and the a capella choir, and performs in Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance*. Influential art instructors include Howard Hunsicker, Paul Scherer, and Howard Reid.
- Lee-Smith hyphenates his name to make it more distinctive.
- 1934** Wins a *Scholastic Magazine* scholarship to study for one year at the Detroit Society of Arts and Crafts.
- GROUP EXHIBITION: 10th Annual Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, International Exhibition of Secondary School Art, Fine Arts Galleries of Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, PA.
- 1935** After completion of the *Scholastic* scholarship, Lee-Smith returns home and applies to the National Academy of Design in New York. He wins a probationary scholarship but accepts a full scholarship from the Gilpin Players at the Karamu Theater in Cleveland to study at the Cleveland School of Art. Studies drawing and painting there with Henry O. Keller, Rolf Stoll, and Carl Gaertner. Interest in portraiture, an emphasis on tonal values, and pursuit of the chiaroscuro technique develop during this period.
- As a condition of his Karamu House scholarship, Lee-Smith teaches one art class a week at the Playhouse Settlement until 1939. He also works with the Gilpin Players actors and

cofounds a biracial experimental dance group. The National Youth Administration (WPA) pays him a salary for his work at Playhouse Settlement.

Attends night school at John Huntingdon Polytechnic.

**1936** Works as a professional singer with his mother at the Cleveland Stadium's summer opera festival (*Aida*; Shirley Graham's *Tom Tom*).

**1937** Minor acting role in the Parade of Progress pageant at the Cleveland Stadium.

**1938** Graduates from Cleveland School of Art with honors and wins a postgraduate scholarship for a fifth year of study at the Cleveland School of Art; works with the Ohio WPA Art Project to create a series of lithographs.

Meets Mabel Louise Everett in Detroit and moves to that city, where he works as a sand molder at the Ford Motor Company.

Wins third prize in freehand drawing and an honorable mention in linoprint from the Cleveland Museum of Art.

GROUP EXHIBITION: *The May Show*, Annual Exhibition of Cleveland Artists and Craftsmen, Cleveland Museum of Art.

**1939** Wins third prize in lithography from the Cleveland Museum of Art.

Hired as head of the art department at Claflin College, an African American school in Orangeburg, SC. Lee-Smith develops the school's curriculum and teaches there until 1941.

GROUP EXHIBITION: *The May Show*, Annual Exhibition of Cleveland Artists and Craftsmen, Cleveland Museum of Art.

**1940** During the summer break following his first year of teaching, Lee-Smith marries Mabel Louise Everett in Detroit. They return to Orangeburg.

Wins second prize in lithography from the Cleveland Museum of Art.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *13th Annual Ohio Printmakers Exhibition*, The Dayton Institute (OH). Traveled to Grand Rapids Art Gallery (MI); Cincinnati Art Museum; Cleveland Museum of Art; Ohio State University, Columbus; Denver Museum of Art (CO); Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN; West Virginia State University, Morgantown.

*The May Show*, Annual Exhibition of Cleveland Artists and Craftsmen, Cleveland Museum of Art.

**1941** Mabel's unhappiness and health problems prompt the couple to leave South Carolina; they return to Detroit.

Employed as a war worker at the Ford Motors foundry for nearly three years, Lee-Smith is a coremaker on the Pratt-Whitney engine, a special military development project.

**1942** GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *Karamu Artists Exhibition*, Associated American Artists Gallery, New York.

*Five Negro Artists*, Kerner & Wood Galleries, Cleveland.

**1943** Daughter, Christina, is born in Detroit.

Wins the purchase prize at Atlanta University's exhibition of African American artists.

Lee-Smith later identifies this as a turning point in his reputation and career as a painter.

James Porter includes Lee-Smith's prints in his seminal publication, *Modern Negro Art*.

Drafted into the United States Navy, Lee-Smith is appointed an official painter of "morale paintings" with patriotic and historical themes.



During Lee-Smith's nineteen months stationed at Naval Station Great Lakes, near Chicago, his friend Margaret Goss (Burroughs) introduces him to that city's black arts community. Lee-Smith teaches classes at the South Side Community Arts Center and becomes friends with its director, the painter Rex Goreleigh.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: Exhibition of Midwest Negro Artists, sponsored by the National Negro Congress, Detroit.

*Paintings by Negro Artists of America*, Atlanta University (GA).

- 1944** GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *The Negro in the U.S. Navy*, twelve murals by three navy artists: Isaiah Williams, Edsel Cramer, Hughie Lee-Smith. Camp Robert Smalls Recreation Building, Great Lakes, IL.

*The Merchant Seaman's Exhibition: Art and the People*, Hull House, Chicago.

- 1945** Leaves the navy; returns to Detroit to work in an automobile factory. Artist credits appear in *New Masses*.

FIRST SOLO EXHIBITIONS: *Oils . . . Prints . . . Drawings by Seaman Hughie Lee-Smith*, South Side Community Art Center, Chicago. Foreword by Rex Goreleigh.

Snowden Gallery, Chicago.

GROUP EXHIBITION: Albany Institute of Art (NY).

- 1946** GROUP EXHIBITION: *1st Annual Negro and White Art Exhibition*, Detroit Urban League. Sponsored by *New Masses* in conjunction with the National Negro Congress.

- 1947** Moves to Chicago for a job as manager of a new art school at the South Side Community Center. Established by David Ross, the school is intended to serve veterans. Financial problems prevent the school from opening.

In Detroit again, Lee-Smith returns to factory work. Joins Local 600, a UAW chapter, at Ford Motors and becomes active in the union movement. Cochairs, with Arthur Stearn, an art committee within the organization.

The U.S. Navy donates *The Negro in the U.S. Navy* murals (created in 1944) to the South Side Community Art Center, Chicago.

- 1948** Returns to the Detroit Society of Arts and Crafts on the G.I. Bill for a one-year "refresher course." Lee-Smith uses this year to paint every day and to prepare for a solo exhibition at the Ten Thirty Gallery.

GROUP EXHIBITION: *Hughie Lee-Smith and Jasper Wood*, Ten Thirty Gallery, Cleveland.

- 1949** GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *Oils and Watercolors*, Detroit Artists Market.  
*12 Cleveland Artists*, Karamu House Art Gallery, Cleveland.

- 1950** SOLO EXHIBITION: Ten Thirty Gallery, Cleveland, OH.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *Sam Pucci, Hughie Lee-Smith, Keith Whitmore, & Thomas Brun*, Detroit Artists Market.

*First Annual Wayne County Artist Show*, Jewish Community Center, Detroit.

*Art: USA*, New York Coliseum.

- 1951** Wins the Anthony Maiuelle Prize from the Detroit Institute of Arts.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *26th Anniversary of Negro History Week*, Halvey Music Center, Detroit.

Michigan Regional Chapter of the Artists Equity Association, J. L. Hudson and Company Fine Arts Gallery, Detroit.

*The Negro Arts Exhibit*, Lothrop Branch of the Detroit Public Library, in observance of Detroit's 250th birthday festival.

Detroit Artists Market.

*42nd Annual Michigan Artists Exhibition*, Detroit Institute of Arts.

**1952** Wins the Wineman Prize from the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Wins fourth prize at the Michigan State Fair art exhibition.

SOLO EXHIBITION: Detroit Artists Market.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *The Role of the Negro in American Life*, 2nd Annual Art Exhibition, Veterans Memorial Building, Detroit.

*Annual Wayne County Art Exhibit*, Jewish Community Center, Detroit.

Detroit Artists Market.

Garelick Gallery, Detroit.

*2nd Annual Michigan State Fair Art Exhibit*, Michigan State Fair Coliseum, Detroit.

*43rd Annual Michigan Artists Exhibition*, Detroit Institute of Arts.

**1953** Lee-Smith and Mabel Louise Everett divorce.

Enrolls at Wayne State University in Detroit under the G.I. Bill and receives a BS in art education.

Begins teaching at the War Memorial Association in Grosse Pointe, MI. Lee-Smith will teach here until 1966.

Gives private art lessons at the Birmingham Art Association (MI).

Wins the Founders Prize at the Detroit Institute of Arts for his painting *The Piper*.

Wins second prize at the Michigan State Fair art exhibition.

SOLO EXHIBITION: *21 Watercolors*, Garelick Gallery, Detroit.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *2nd Over the Mantelpiece Exhibit*, Detroit Artists Market.

*Humanism in Art*, Garelick Gallery, Detroit.

Anna L. Werbe Gallery, Detroit.

*18th Annual Mid-year Show*, Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, OH.

*3rd Annual Michigan State Fair Art Exhibit*, Detroit.

*44th Annual Michigan Artists Exhibition*, Detroit Institute of Arts.

**1954** Wins the Popular Prize from Kirk-in-the-Hills (MI) art exhibition.

Wins third prize at the Michigan State Fair art exhibition.

Teaches art at Rex Goreleigh's Studio-on-the-Canal in Princeton, NJ, until 1964.

Founding member of the Princeton Art Association.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS: Forsythe Gallery, Ann Arbor, MI.

Anne L. Werbe Gallery, Detroit.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: Detroit Artists Market.

*19th Annual Mid-year Show*, Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown.

*22nd Annual Mid-Summer Exhibition*, Buck Hill Art Association (PA).



- 30th Annual National Art Exhibition*, Springville High School Art Gallery, Springville, UT.  
*Outdoor Art Festival*, Kirk-in-the-Hills (MI).  
*4th Annual Michigan State Fair Art Exhibit*, Detroit.  
*45th Annual Michigan Artists Exhibition*, Detroit Institute of Arts.
- 1955** Wins the Roundtable and Winkleman Foundation Prizes from the Detroit Institute of Arts.  
 SOLO EXHIBITIONS: Howard University, Washington.  
 Little Gallery, Birmingham, MI.  
 GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *16th Southeastern Exhibition of Contemporary American Painting*, organized by Shillard Smith, chair of the board of governors of the Florida Gulf Coast Art Center, with cooperating galleries. Traveled to Columbia Museum of Art (SC); Florida Gulf Coast Art Center, Inc., Clearwater, FL; Norton Gallery and School of Art, West Palm Beach, FL; Central Louisiana Art Association, Alexandria; Sarasota Art Association; Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences, Savannah; Chattanooga Art Association; The Public Library of Winston-Salem, NC.  
*Select Group from the '54 Michigan Artists Exhibition*, Detroit Club, Detroit.  
*Levin Collection*, Cranbrook Academy of Art Galleries, Bloomfield Hills, MI. Catalogue with essay by Robert Enggass.  
*Three Painters: Hughie Lee-Smith, Karin von Leyden, Roy Boot*, The Little Gallery, Birmingham, MI.  
*Romanticists*, Detroit Artists Market.  
*20th Annual Mid-year Show*, Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown.  
*46th Annual Michigan Artists Exhibition*, Detroit Institute of Arts.
- 1956** Wins the Purchase Prize from the Michigan Academy of Arts, Letters, and Science in Ann Arbor.  
 GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *Collectors Items*, Anna L. Werbe Gallery, Detroit.  
 Detroit Artists Market.  
*47th Annual Michigan Artists Exhibition*, Detroit Institute of Arts.
- 1957** Prizewinner in the Ninth Annual Emily Lowe Competition, New York.  
 GROUP EXHIBITIONS: Detroit Artists Market.  
*Emily Lowe Competition*, Eggleston Gallery, New York.  
*Annual Exhibition of the Fine Arts Section*, Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters, Ann Arbor.
- 1958** Moves to New York City's East Village; teaches in Princeton, NJ, schools.  
 Signs with Petite Gallery (later the Janet Nessler Gallery), New York.  
 Wins the Allied Artists Prize from the Allied Artists of America, New York.  
 SOLO EXHIBITIONS: Petite Gallery, New York.  
 Detroit Artists Market.  
 Gallery of Art, Howard University, Washington. Catalogue with essay by James A. Porter. April 11–May 6.  
 GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *Exhibition of Emily Lowe Award Paintings*, Trinity College, Hartford, CT.  
 Detroit Artists Market.

*45th Annual Exhibition*, Allied Artists of America at the National Academy Galleries, New York.  
New York City Center Gallery.

*1st Annual Metropolitan Young Artists Show*, National Arts Club, New York.

COMMISSION: *The Thespians: Portrait of Ira Aldridge*. Barnett Aden Gallery, Washington.

**1959** Wins the Thomas B. Clarke Prize from the National Academy of Design.

Wins honorable mention from City Center Gallery, New York.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *Two Michigan Artists: Hughie Lee-Smith and Zubel Kachadoorian*, Albion College (MI).

*Art USA: '59*, New York Coliseum. Catalogue with essay by Lee Nordness.

*Oils by Nine Prize Winners*, Janet Nessler Gallery, New York.

The New York Center Gallery.

*134th Annual Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York.

*49th Annual Exhibition*, Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts, Hartford.

*10th Anniversary New England Exhibition*, Silvermine Guild, New Canaan, CT.

*Pennsylvania Academy Annual Exhibition*, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia.

*46th Annual Exhibition*, Allied Artists of America at the National Academy Galleries, New York.

**1960** Teaches at the Princeton Art Association (and continues throughout the 1960s and 1970s).

SOLO EXHIBITION: Janet Nessler Gallery (Petite Gallery), New York.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: Detroit Artists Market.

*The American Negro Looks at Africa*, Commercial Museum, Philadelphia.

*Collector's Choice IV: A Sales Exhibition of Objects d'Art*, City Art Museum, Saint Louis, MO.

*Annual Eastern States Art Exhibition*, Silvermine Guild, New Canaan, CT.

*135th Annual Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York.

*25th Annual Mid-year Show*, Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown.

**1961** Lee-Smith's daughter, Christina, moves to New York to live with Lee-Smith, around 1961–1962.

Wins the first purchase prize from the American Society of African Culture.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *New Vistas in American Art*, Howard University Gallery of Art.

Catalogue with essay by James A. Porter.

Detroit Artists Market.

American Society of African Culture, New York.

*Annual Eastern States Art Exhibition*, The Museum of Fine Arts, West Springfield, MA.

*26th Annual Mid-year Show*, Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown.

**1962** Lee-Smith's ex-wife, Mabel Everett, dies from cancer.

SOLO EXHIBITION: Janet Nessler Gallery, New York.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *Things*, Janet Nessler Gallery, New York.

*20th Annual Exhibition*, Audubon Artists, National Academy Galleries, New York.

*Pennsylvania Academy Annual Exhibition*, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia.

*27th Annual Mid-year Show*, Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown.



- 49th Annual Exhibition*, Allied Artists of America, National Academy Galleries, New York.
- 1963** Wins the Ranger Fund Purchase Prize from the National Academy of Design.
- GROUP EXHIBITIONS: Detroit Artists Market.
- The Gallery, Sandusky, OH.
- 138th Annual Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York.
- 28th Annual Mid-year Show*, Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown.
- 1964** Marries Helen Nebraska Bowers in New York City.
- Teaches art at the Princeton Country Day School until 1966.
- SOLO EXHIBITION: Janet Nessler Gallery, New York.
- GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *22nd Annual Exhibition*, Audubon Artists, National Academy Galleries.
- 139th Annual Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York.
- 29th Annual Mid-year Show*, Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown.
- 1965** Janet Nessler Gallery closes. Lee-Smith joins Grand Central Galleries.
- Elected an associate of the National Academy of Design.
- Suffering an acute attack of bursitis complicated by exhaustion, Lee-Smith is put on bed rest by his physician. He is unable to lift his painting arm.
- GROUP EXHIBITIONS: Detroit Artists Market at J. L. Hudson Company.
- Campus Art*, Union Building, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
- Princeton Portraits*, Princeton Art Association at McCarter Theater.
- 140th Annual Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York.
- PUBLIC COMMISSION: E. R. Squibb & Sons, Collegia Medica series, two oil paintings of the University of Michigan Medical School.
- 1966** SOLO EXHIBITIONS: Detroit Artists Market.
- Forsythe Gallery, Ann Arbor.
- GROUP EXHIBITION: *141st Annual Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York.
- 1967** Teaches art at Vermont Academy in Saxons River, VT.
- Becomes the first African American artist since Henry Ossawa Tanner (1927) to be elected a full member of the National Academy of Design.
- GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *The Evolution of Afro-American Artists: 1800–1950*, Great Hall, City College of New York. Catalogue with essay by Carroll Greene, Jr. Co-directed by Romare Bearden and Carroll Greene, Jr. October 15–November 8.
- 142nd Annual Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York.
- Annual Exhibition of the Art Education Alumni Association*, Wayne State University, Detroit. March 19–April 6.
- 1968** SOLO EXHIBITION: Grand Central Art Gallery, New York.
- GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *Contemporary Black Artists*, Minneapolis Institute of Arts with Ruder & Finn Fine Arts (NY). Exhibition revised and enlarged in 1969. Traveled to the Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence; Memorial Art Gallery, Rochester, NY; San Francisco Museum of Art; Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston;

New Jersey State Museum, Trenton; Roberson Center for the Arts and Sciences, Binghamton, NY; Art Gallery, University of California at Santa Barbara.

*4th Annual Invitational Exhibition HFCC*, Henry Ford Community College, Dearborn, MI.  
Detroit Institute of Arts.

The Scarab Club, Detroit.

Grand Ballroom, Hotel Pierre, New York. Exhibition sponsored by the Northside Center for Child Development, Inc., in special tribute to Duke.

*143rd Annual Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York.

Community Arts Gallery, Wayne State University, Detroit.

**1969** Artist in residence at Howard University through 1971.

SOLO EXHIBITION: Bergman Galleries, University of Chicago.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *Afro-American Artists: 1800–1969*, Philadelphia Civic Center Museum. Catalogue with essay by A. C. Hollingsworth.

*144th Annual Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York.

**1970** GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *Paintings and Sculpture from the Gallery Collection and Dedication of the James A. Porter Gallery of African Art*, Howard University Gallery of Art.

*Homage to Alain Locke*, Atlanta University. Catalogue with essay by Richard A. Long.

*Black Artists Exhibition*, Sill Hall Gallery, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI.

*Black American Art: An Overview*, Muskingum College Library, New Concord, OH.

Catalogue with essay by Arcenaux B. Macklin.

*Afro-American Artists, New York and Boston*, Museum of Fine Arts, in conjunction with The Museum of the National Center of Afro-American Artists and The School of Fine Arts, Boston.

*145th Annual Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York.

**1971** Teaches African-American art history at Trenton (NJ) State College through 1973.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS: J. L. Hudson Company, Detroit.

Arwin Galleries, Detroit.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *Art Faculty Exhibition*, Howard University Gallery of Art.

*Art IV*, 12th Annual Art Exhibition, The Detroit Artists Market at J. L. Hudson Company.

*Contemporary Black Artists in America*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.

*Black American Graphics*, The Studio Museum in Harlem.

*146th Annual Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York.

**1972** Resumes teaching at Studio-on-the-Canal in Princeton until 1976.

Teaches at the Art Students League until 1988.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *Third Invitational Show*, Art Confederation Gallery, Owen's Barn, Kingston, NJ.

*Current Instructors Yearly Exhibition*, Art Students League, New York.

*147th Annual Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York.

**1973** July 25: Granddaughter, Piéra, is born to Christina and Ervin Dinwiddie in San Francisco.

SOLO EXHIBITION: Grand Central Art Galleries, New York.



- GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *Reality Expanded: Hughie Lee-Smith/Rex Goreleigh/Eldzier Cortor*, Museum of the National Center of Afro-American Artists, Roxbury, MA, January 10–31. Catalogue with essay by Edward B. Henning.
- Current Instructors Yearly Exhibition*, Art Students League, New York.
- 148th Annual Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York.
- PUBLIC COMMISSION: The United States Navy, *Navy Black History*, oil painting, Washington, DC.
- 1974** After years of living separately, Lee-Smith and Helen Nebraska Bowers divorce.
- Receives certificate of commendation from the U.S. Navy.
- SOLO EXHIBITION: San Giuseppe Gallery, College of Mount Saint Joseph-on-the-Ohio, Saint Joseph, OH.
- GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *Combat Art of WWII*, Reserve Officers Association, Minuteman Building, Washington, DC.
- Selected Alumni*, Cleveland Institute of Art. Statement by Joseph McCollough.
- Aspects of the Figure*, Cleveland Museum of Art. Catalogue with essay by Edward B. Henning.
- Current Instructors Yearly Exhibition*, Art Students League, New York.
- 149th Annual Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York.
- 1975** GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *An American Dream World: Romantic Realism, 1930-1955*, Whitney Museum of American Art.
- Current Instructors Yearly Exhibition*, Art Students League, New York.
- 150th Annual Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York.
- 1976** GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *Michigan Collects Michigan Art*, Pontiac Creative Arts Center, Detroit.
- Fragments of American Life*, Princeton University Art Museum.
- Two Centuries of Black American Art*, Museum Associates of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Catalogue with essay by David C. Driskell and notes by Leonard Simon. Traveling exhibition.
- Current Instructors Yearly Exhibition*, Art Students League, New York.
- 151st Annual Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York.
- PUBLIC COMMISSION: Maryland Commission on Afro-American History and Culture: *Portrait of Justice Thurgood Marshall*, Annapolis.
- 1977** Wins the National Academy of Design's Ranger Fund purchase prize a second time.
- Becomes a member of the Studio Museum in Harlem's curatorial council.
- SOLO EXHIBITION: Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo.
- GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *Current Instructors Yearly Exhibition*, Art Students League, New York.
- 35th Annual Exhibition*, Audubon Artists, National Academy Gallery, New York.
- 152nd Annual Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York.
- 1978** Marries Patricia Thomas-Ferry in New York City.
- Nominated the director in oil of Audubon Artists, Inc.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *WPA and the Black Artist*, Chicago Public Library. Catalogue with essay by Ruth Ann Stewart.

NACAL Artists, 1960–1978, 19th Annual NACAL Presentation, Salmagundi Club, New York.

*Current Instructors Yearly Exhibition*, Art Students League, New York.

*153rd Annual Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York.

- 1979** GROUP EXHIBITION: *154th Annual Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York.

- 1980** Elected president of Audubon Artists, Inc.; serves until 1982.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *Historical Roots: The Black Artists in Michigan*, Detroit Historical Museum.

*Audubon Artists Special Members Exhibition*, American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, New York.

*Current Instructors Yearly Exhibition*, Art Students League, New York.

*38th Annual Exhibition*, Audubon Artists, National Academy Gallery, New York.

*155th Annual Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York.

- 1981** Moves to North Bergen, NJ.

Re-elected president of Audubon Artists.

Awarded the Bronze Plaque from the Maryland Commission on Afro-American History and Culture.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *Current Instructors Yearly Exhibition*, Art Students League, New York.

*39th Annual Exhibition*, Audubon Artists, National Academy Gallery, New York.

*156th Annual Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York.

- 1982** Moves to East Windsor, NJ.

Receives the Ralph Fabri Award from Audubon Artists.

*Portrait of Two Artists*, a documentary film featuring Hughie Lee-Smith and Jacob Lawrence, airs on public television.

SOLO EXHIBITION: Summit Gallery, New York.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *The Cleveland Institute of Art: 100 Years*. Catalogue essay by Edward B. Henning.

*Ritual and Myth: A Survey of African-American Art*, The Studio Museum in Harlem.

Catalogue with essays by Mary S. Campbell, David C. Driskell, and Leslie King-Hammond.

*Invitational Exhibition*, The Lotos Club, New York.

*40th Annual Exhibition*, Audubon Artists, National Arts Club, New York.

*Current Instructors Yearly Exhibition*, Art Students League, New York.

*157th Annual Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York.

- 1983** Receives the Binny & Smith Award from Audubon Artists.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *Surrealism and the Afro-American Artist*, Evans-Tibbs Collection, Washington, DC. Catalogue with essay by Thurlow E. Tibbs, Jr.

*Six Artists from the Market's History*, Detroit Artists Market.



*New Jersey Artists of the National Academy of Design*, YMYHA, West Orange, NJ.

*Invitational Exhibition*, The Lotos Club, New York.

*41st Annual Exhibition*, Audubon Artists, National Arts Club, New York.

*Current Instructors Yearly Exhibition*, Art Students League, New York.

*158th Annual Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York.

**1984** October 19 declared Hughie Lee-Smith Day in Cleveland.

Awarded the key to the city of Hartford, CT.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS: Malcolm Brown Gallery, Shaker Heights, OH.

CRT'S (Community Renewal Team's) Craftery Gallery, Hartford.

The Century Association, New York.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *Since the Harlem Renaissance: 50 Years of African-American Art*, Center Gallery, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA. Catalogue with preface by Joseph Jacobs. Traveled to the Amelia A. Wallace Art Gallery, The State University of New York, Westbury; Museum of Art, Munson-Williams Proctor Institute, Utica; Art Gallery, University of Maryland, College Park; The Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, VA; Museum of Art, Pennsylvania State University, University Park.

*Invitational Exhibition*, The Lotos Club, New York.

*42nd Annual Exhibition*, Audubon Artists, National Arts Club, New York.

*Current Instructors Yearly Exhibition*, Art Students League, New York.

*159th Annual Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York.

**1985** Becomes the National Academy of Design's first African American at-large council member; sits on the council until 1989.

Receives the Emily Lowe Award from Audubon Artists.

Elected vice president for oils by Audubon Artists.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *Hidden Heritage: Afro-American Art, 1800-1950*, Bellevue Art Museum (WA). September 14-November 10. Catalogue with essay by David C. Driskell. Traveled to the Bronx Museum of Art; California Afro-American Museum, Los Angeles; Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford; Mint Museum of Art, Charlotte; San Antonio Museum of Art; Toledo Museum of Art; Baltimore Museum of Art; Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia; Oklahoma Museum of Art, Oklahoma City.

*The 1985 African/Latin Festival*, Human Service Center Auditorium, Waterbury, CT.

*Art in Washington and Its Afro-American Presence: 1940-1970*, Washington, DC. Project for the Arts. Catalogue with essay by Keith Morrison.

*Selections from the Permanent Holdings: 19th and 20th Century Art*, Evans-Tibbes Collection at the Sixth District Police Headquarters, Washington, DC.

*The Factory Showoff*, Cleveland Institute of Art.

*Invitational Exhibition*, The Lotos Club, New York.

*43rd Annual Exhibition*, Audubon Artists, National Arts Club.

*Current Instructors Yearly Exhibition*, Art Students League, New York.

*160th Annual Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York.

- 1986** Receives the Len Everette Memorial Award from Audubon Artists.
- SOLO EXHIBITION: Art Center of Battle Creek (MI).
- GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *West '86: Art and the Law*, 11th Annual Art and the Law Exhibition organized by the West Publishing Company, St. Paul. Catalogue. Traveled to the Association of the Bar of the City of New York; Loyola Law School, Los Angeles; Blanden Memorial Art Museum, Fort Dodge, IA; Minnesota Museum of Art, St. Paul; Sunrise Art Museum, Charleston, WV; Sixth Annual National Art Competition/Exhibition, Atlanta Life Insurance Company.
- Additions*, New Jersey State Museum, Trenton.
- The Four Arts of Audubon Artists*, Lever House, New York.
- Artists Fellowship Board Members*, The National Arts Club.
- Unbroken Circle: African-American Artists 1930s & 1940s*, Kenkeleba House Gallery, New York. Catalogue with essay by David C. Driskell.
- Thirteen Black Artists*, Joe & Emily Lowe Art Gallery at Hudson Guild, with the cooperation of Kenkeleba House and Onyx Gallery, New York.
- Federation of Modern Painters and Sculptors, Art Students League, New York.
- Annual Exhibition*, The Century Association of New York.
- Invitational Exhibition*, The Lotos Club, New York.
- 44th Annual Exhibition*, Audubon Artists, National Arts Club, New York.
- Current Instructors Yearly Exhibition*, Art Students League, New York.
- 161st Annual Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York.
- 1987** SOLO EXHIBITIONS: *Hughie Lee-Smith: New Paintings*, June Kelly Gallery, September 19–October 17. Catalog with essay by Lowery Stokes Sims.
- Isobel Neal Gallery, Chicago.
- GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *Poster Series*, New Jersey State Museum, Trenton. Catalogue with essay by Ronnie Weyl.
- Landscapes from Four Perspectives*, A Princeton Art Association Exhibition at Merrill Lynch Administrative Headquarters, Princeton.
- Al Wade/Hughie Lee-Smith*, Hudson Guild Art Gallery, New York.
- Inaugural Exhibition*, June Kelly Gallery, New York.
- Three Masters*, Kenkeleba Gallery, New York. Catalogue with essays by Richard A. Long, Corrine L. Jennings, David C. Driskell, and Jontyle Theresa Robinson.
- Symbols, Metaphors, Dreams*, Joe & Emily Lowe Art Gallery at Hudson Guild, New York.
- 39th Annual Purchase Exhibition*, American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, New York.
- Jamaica Arts Center, New York.
- Annual Exhibition*, The Century Association of New York.
- Invitational Exhibition*, The Lotos Club, New York.
- 45th Annual Exhibition*, Audubon Artists, National Arts Club, New York.
- Current Instructors Yearly Exhibition*, Art Students League, New York.
- 162nd Annual Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York.



- 1988** FIRST RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION: *Hughie Lee-Smith Retrospective Exhibition*, New Jersey State Museum, Trenton. November 5, 1988–January 2, 1989. Catalogue with essay by Lowery Stokes Sims. Traveled to The Cultural Center, Chicago; Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown; The Studio Museum in Harlem.
- Hughie Lee-Smith: The Romantic Realist*, June Kelly Gallery, New York. Catalogue with essay by Lowery Stokes Sims.
- Malcolm Brown Gallery, Shaker Heights, OH.
- National Urban League, New York.
- GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *A Bid for Human Rights*, Brenda Walter Gallery, Santa Monica, CA. Exhibition and auction sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Jackson, Michael Jackson and Family, New Jersey Network, Public Television.
- Joining Forces: Hughie Lee-Smith & John W. Rhoden*, Montclair State College Art Gallery, Montclair, NJ. Catalogue.
- Forty Years: A Gallery Retrospective*, Hudson Guild Art Gallery, Hudson Guild Neighborhood House. Sponsored by Joe & Emily Lowe Foundation, New York.
- 40th Annual Purchase Exhibition*, American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, New York.
- Selected Works*, Francine Seders Gallery, Seattle. Catalogue with introduction by Francine Seders.
- Annual Exhibition*, The Century Association of New York.
- Invitational Exhibition*, The Lotos Club, New York.
- 163rd Annual Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York.
- PUBLIC COMMISSIONS: The Prudential and Deansbank Investment Corporation, *Idyllic Landscape*, mosaic mural, McPherson Building, Washington, DC.
- New Jersey State Council on the Arts: *Cityscape*, mural, Trenton.
- 1989** SOLO EXHIBITIONS: *The Presence of Something Profound and Mysterious*, June Kelly Gallery, New York. Catalogue with essay by Lawrence Campbell.
- Armory Art Gallery, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg.
- GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *African-American Artists 1800–1987*, Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, in association with the University of Washington Press. Catalogue with essays by Guy C. McElroy, Richard J. Powell, and Sharon F. Patton.
- Traveled to Hood Museum of Art, Hanover, NY; Vassar College Art Gallery, Poughkeepsie; Afro-American Cultural Center, Charlotte; Patrick & Beatrice Haggerty Museum of Art, Milwaukee; Hillwood Art Gallery, Brookville, NY; Marion Koogler McNay Art Institute, San Antonio; Nevada Institute of Contemporary Art, Las Vegas; Grinnell College (IA); Columbus Museum (GA); Arkansas Art Center, Little Rock; Museum of Art and Archaeology, Columbia, MO; Edison Community College Gallery, Fort Myers, FL; University of Kentucky Art Museum, Lexington; Terra Museum of American Art, Chicago; Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences, Savannah; Fort Wayne Museum of Art; Knoxville Museum of Art; Stedman Art Gallery, Rutgers University, Camden, NJ; Museum of African American History, Detroit; Western Washington University, Bellingham.
- 19 Black Artists of Capital County*, Library Gallery, West Windsor Campus, Mercer County Community College, West Windsor, NJ.

*25 Years of Teaching at Artworks/Princeton, Artworks/Trenton (NJ).*

*Black Printmakers and the WPA*, Lehman College Art Gallery, Bronx. Catalogue with essays by Nina Castelle Sundell and Leslie King-Hammond.

The Federation of Modern Painters & Sculptors, The American Fine Arts Society & The Art Students League of NY.

Reader's Digest Publishing Company, Pleasantville, NY.

*Annual Exhibition*, The Century Association of New York, NY.

*Invitational Exhibition*, The Lotos Club, New York.

*164th Annual Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York.

**1990** Buys a home in the Clearbrook retirement community in New Jersey. Lee-Smith has never owned a house before.

SOLO EXHIBITION: Greenville Museum of Art (SC).

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *New Jersey Print Masters*, The Gallery at the Mercer County Community College, Trenton. Guest curated by Mel Leipzig. Traveled to The Noyes Museum, Oceanville, NJ.

*15th Annual Art and the Law Exhibition*, West Publishing Company, St. Paul. Traveled to the American Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting, Minneapolis Convention Center; American Bar Association Meeting, State of Illinois Center, Chicago; State Capitol Building, St. Paul.

*Zimmerli Observes Black History Month*, Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum, New Brunswick, NJ.

*A Black Collector's Odyssey in Contemporary Art*, Community Gallery of Art, College of Lake County, Chicago. Catalogue essay by Victoria Lautman.

*Cleveland's African Images, Circa 1920–1960*, The Northeast Ohio Art Museum, Cleveland. Sponsored by the Cleveland Artists Foundation.

*Annual Exhibition*, The Century Association of New York.

*Invitational Exhibition*, The Lotos Club, New York.

*165th Annual Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York.

**1991** SOLO EXHIBITION: New Paintings, June Kelly Gallery, New York. Catalogue with essay by Paula J. Giddings. October 5–November 5.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *Prominent African-American Artists*, New Jersey State Museum, Trenton.

The Aljira Fine Art Auction at Gateway Center, Newark.

*New Jersey Print Masters*, The Printmaking Council of New Jersey, Sommerville.

*Annual Exhibition*, The Century Association of New York.

*Invitational Exhibition*, The Lotos Club, New York.

*166th Annual Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York.

**1992** Diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Emergency surgery at Princeton Hospital for complications of radiation therapy. Six-week convalescence in hospital and at home.



GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *Alone in a Crowd: Prints of the 1930s and 1940s by African-American Artists from the Collection of Reba and Dave Williams*, The Newark Museum and The Equitable Gallery (New York). Catalogue with essays by Lowery Stokes Sims and Leslie King-Hammond. Traveled nationally through the American Federation of Arts. *The Expanding Circle: A Selection of African American Art*, The Gallery at Bristol-Myers Squibb, Princeton. Catalogue with foreword by Pamela V. Sherin.

*Drawings II*, Koplin Gallery, Santa Monica.

*Living Legends: Loïs Mailou Jones, Sam Brown & Hughie Lee-Smith*, Museum of African-American Art, Tampa.

*Aspects of Realism*, New Jersey State Museum, Trenton.

*Two Master Painters: Clarence Holbrook Carter & Hughie Lee-Smith*, New Jersey Center for Visual Arts, Summit. Catalogue with essay by George C. Bolge. September 13–October 25.

*Annual Exhibition*, The Century Association of New York.

*Invitational Exhibition*, The Lotos Club, New York.

*167th Annual Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York.

- 1993** SOLO EXHIBITION: *Hughie Lee-Smith: Selected Paintings*, Flushing (NY) Council on Culture and the Arts at Town Hall.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *Russell and Rowena Jelliffe Collection from Karamu Workshop*, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Cleveland Heights.

*Drawings III*, Koplin Gallery, Santa Monica.

*African-American Art: 20th Century Masterworks*, Michael Rosenfeld Gallery, New York.

*Collector's Choice: Celebrating Diversity*, Rotunda Gallery at the Unitarian Church, Montclair, NJ, in cooperation with Aljira: A Center for Contemporary Art, Newark.

*Annual Exhibition*, The Century Association of New York.

*168th Annual Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York.

- 1994** SOLO EXHIBITION: *Watercolors*, June Kelly Gallery, New York, March 3–April 5.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *Free Within Ourselves: African-American Art from the Museum's Collection*, National Museum of American Art, Washington, DC. Traveling exhibition.

*Harmon and Harriet Kelley Collection of African-American Art*, San Antonio Museum of Art. Exhibition organized by Douglas K. S. Hyland. Catalogue with essays by Gylbert Coker and Corrine Jennings; preface by Harriet O'Banion Kelley. Traveled to El Paso Museum of Art; Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University, Atlanta; Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown; Hunter Museum of Art, Chattanooga; Art & Industries Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC.

*More Than Meets the Eye: A Century of Realism in New Jersey, 1900–1994*, The Morris Museum, Morristown, NJ.

*June Kelly: A Particular Vision*, Anderson Gallery, Buffalo.

*African American Artists 1940–1960*, G. R. N'Namdi Gallery, Birmingham, MI.

*New Traditions: Modern Art in Savannah Area Collections*, Telfair Mansion and Art Museum, Savannah.

*The Inlander Collection of Great Lakes Regional Painting, 1913–1958*, Corridor Gallery, Cleveland State University.

*American Regionalism*, paintings from the private collection of Michael Hall and Patricia Glascock. Traveled to the Center for Creative Studies, College of Art and Design, Institute of Music and Dance, Center Galleries, Detroit.

*Van Der Zee Award Artists: Prints from the Brandywine Workshop*, Hahn Gallery, Germantown, PA.

*Empowerment: The Art of African American Artists*, Krasdale Gallery and Lehman College Art Gallery, White Plains, NY. Curated by Sigmund R. Balka and Susan Hoeltzel.

*46th Annual Academy Purchase Exhibition*, American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, New York.

*Annual Exhibition*, The Century Association of New York.

PUBLIC COMMISSION: City Hall, New York: official portrait of Mayor David N. Dinkins.

- 1995** Receives honorary doctorate in fine arts from the Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore.

SOLO EXHIBITION: *Hughie Lee-Smith: Overview, 1945–1995*, The Gallery at Bristol-Meyers Squibb, Princeton. Catalogue with introduction by Michael Brenson. October 15–November 26.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *Realism/Surrealism*, TAWA, Trenton City Museum at Ellarslie, Trenton. Traveled to Nabisco Brands, Incorporated, East Hanover, NJ.

*African-American Art: 20th Century Masterworks, II*, Michael Rosenfeld Gallery, New York. Traveled to Long Beach Museum of Art (CA).

*African-American Printmaking, 1838 to the Present*, Rockland Center of the Arts, West Nyack, NY.

*47th Annual Academy Purchase Exhibition*, American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, New York.

*Annual Exhibition*, The Century Association of New York.

*170th Annual Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York.

- 1996** Lee-Smith's great-grandson, Travis Douglas, is born.

SOLO EXHIBITION: *Hughie Lee-Smith: Cleveland Visionary*, Malcolm Brown Gallery, Shaker Heights, OH. June 1–July 13.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *Transformations in Cleveland Art: 1796–1946*, Cleveland Museum of Art.

*Yet Still We Rise: African-American Art in Cleveland, 1920–1970*, The Cleveland Artists Foundation. Catalogue with foreword by Leslie King-Hammond. Essays by Samuel W. Block, Alfred L. Bright, and Pamela McKee. Exhibition venues included Cleveland State University; The Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown; Riffe Gallery, Columbus.

*African-American Art: 20th Century Masterworks, III*, Michael Rosenfeld Gallery, New York.

*48th Annual Academy Purchase Exhibition*, American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, New York.

PUBLIC COMMISSION: Portrait of Reginald F. Lewis, Harvard Club, New York.

- 1997** Moves to home with studio in Albuquerque, NM.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS: *Hughie Lee-Smith: A Retrospective*, Ogunquit Museum of American Art (ME). Curated by Michael Culver. July 1–August 13. Traveled to the



Appleton Museum, Ocala, FL, January 13, 1997–March 22, 1998.

*Of time and space . . . paintings by Hughie Lee-Smith*, Milton Rhodes Gallery at the Sawtooth Building, Winston-Salem, NC. A presentation of Winston-Salem Delta Fine Arts, Inc.. Catalogue with essay by Leo Twiggs. February 13–March 15.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *The Language of Landscape: Paintings and Drawings from the Collection of the National Academy of Design*.

*African-American Art: 20th Century Masterworks, VI*, Michael Rosenfeld Gallery, New York. Traveled to Fisk University Galleries, Nashville.

**1998** Awarded the key to the city of Eustis, FL.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *Beyond the Veil: The Art of African American Artists at Century's End*, The George D. Harriet W. Cornell Fine Arts Museum of Rollins College, Winter Park, FL. Guest curated by Dr. M. J. Hewitt. Catalogue.

*Black New York Artists from the 20th Century: Selections from the Schomburg Center's Collections*, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York. Catalogue.

*Faithful Voices: Four Decades of African American Art*, University Museum of Hampton University, VA.

*A Brush with Light: Watercolor Painters of Northeast Ohio*, Cleveland Artists Foundation. Traveling exhibition. Catalogue.

*The African-American Fine Arts Collections of the New Jersey State Museum* (Trenton).

**1999** February 23: Hughie Lee-Smith dies of cancer in Albuquerque, at the age of 83.

GROUP EXHIBITION: *174th Annual Exhibition*, National Academy of Design, New York.

**2000** SOLO EXHIBITION: *Memorial Exhibition*, June Kelly Gallery, New York.

GROUP EXHIBITION: *African-American Art: 20th Century Masterworks, VII*, Michael Rosenfeld Gallery, New York. Traveling exhibition.

**2001** SOLO EXHIBITION: *Stages of Influence: The Universal Theater of Hughie Lee-Smith*, University of New Mexico Art Museum, Albuquerque. Guest curated by Sara L. Marion.

**2003** GROUP EXHIBITION: *Art in Embassies Program*, Washington, DC.

**2006** SOLO EXHIBITION: *The Art of Hughie Lee-Smith*, Florida Governor's Mansion, Tallahassee. Part of Florida's Black History Month celebration. Catalogue with introduction by Columba Bush, First Lady of Florida. February 1–28.

**2007** GROUP EXHIBITIONS: *Crossing The Line: African American Artists in the Jacqueline Bradley and Clarence Otis, Jr. Collection*, organized by the Cornell Fine Arts Museum at Rollins College, Winter Park, FL. Catalogue edited by E. Luanne McKinnon; essay by Franklin Sirmans. January 19–May 20.

*From Here to Infinity*, Cleveland Institute of Art. Curated by Bruce Checefsky, director of the institute's Reinberger Galleries. Catalogue. September 7–October 27.

**2008** GROUP EXHIBITION: *Jonathan Green: The Artist and the Collector*, The Franklin G. Burroughs–Simeon B. Chapin Art Museum, Myrtle Beach, SC. Works by Jonathan Green and by African-American artists collected by Jonathan Green and Richard Weedman. June 5–October 19.

**2009** SOLO EXHIBITION: *Hughie Lee-Smith Returns*, Detroit Artists Market. February 6–28.